

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN, SWEL

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 6: EFFECTS OF APARTHEID ON WOMEN
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

REF: A) USUN 1174
B) GOOD-ESCUDERO TELECON OF 3/31/78

1. IF ALL CHANGES SUGGESTED PARA TWO REFTEL AND REFERENCED
TELECON OBTAINED, USDEL MAY VOTE FOR RESOLUTION.
NECESSARY CHANGES INCLUDE:

-- ELIMINATION OR SUITABLE MODIFICATION OF PREAMBULAR
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PARA 6;

-- ELIMINATION OR SUITABLE MODIFICATION OF OPERATIVE
PARA 3;

-- MODIFICATION OF OPERATIVE PARA 6.

2. AS A FALLBACK ON SUBJECT OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ASSUMING US AND UK DELS ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN REQUESTED CHANGES IN PREAMBULAR PARA 6, USDEL MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CHANGING FINAL PERIOD IN OPERATIVE PARA 6 TO A COMMA AND ADDING, "WITH A VIEW TOWARDS IDENTIFYING MEANS WHEREBY

THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS CAN ASSIST IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF SUCH CONDITIONS."

3. IF THE CHANGES REQUESTED BY THE US AND UK CANNOT BE OBTAINED, USDEL MUST ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION, WITH EXPLANATION OF VOTE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE UNITED STATES REGRETS DEEPLY THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS RESOLUTION. IT IS IN GENERAL A LAUDABLE DOCUMENT WHICH DRAWS ATTENTION TO AN EGREGIOUS SITUATION AND SUGGESTS INITIAL STEPS WHICH COULD LEAD TOWARDS THE RECTIFICATION OF THAT SITUATION. ALTHOUGH WE SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE RESOLUTION WE WERE CONCERNED BY ITS SUGGESTION THAT THERE IS SOMETHING INHERENTLY WRONG WITH THE PRESENCE OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE UNITED STATES DISCOURAGES INVESTMENT BY US FIRMS IN NAMIBIA AND ADHERES TO THE VARIOUS UN SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN RHODESIA. HOWEVER, IT IS THE CONSISTENT POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES THAT FOREIGN FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA, IF THEY
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INSTITUTE ENLIGHTENED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES, CAN MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALLEVIATION OF EXACTLY THOSE PROBLEMS AND CONDITIONS ADDRESSED BY THIS RESOLUTION. WE HAD HOPED THAT THIS RESOLUTION MIGHT INCLUDE SOME RECOGNITION OF THE HELPFUL ROLE WHICH TRANSNATIONAL AND OTHER FOREIGN FIRMS MIGHT PLAY IN THIS RESPECT. THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE THAT UN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX. FOR THIS REASON, WE SUPPORT THE REQUEST IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TWO FOR A BREAKDOWN BY SEX OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMED FOR SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH THREE'S CALL FOR A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF THE FUNDS OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND TO BE ALLOCATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE DEFENSE OF WOMEN. UNTIL THE FACTS REQUESTED IN PARA 2 ARE KNOWN, THIS REQUEST IS, IN OUR VIEW, PREMATURE AND COULD CAUSE INFLEXIBILITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM." CHRISTOPHER

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